

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States postal service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on or before:

TH-0776X (US)

MAS:KN

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of DONALD W. ALLEN ET AL

Serial No. 08/970,312 Group Art Unit: 3672

Filed November 14, 1997 Examiner: D. Taylor

FAIRED TRUSS SPAR June 8, 2000

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS Washington, DC 20231

JUN 1 5 2000

Sir:

RESPONSE

OFFICE OF PETTIONS **DEPUTY A/C PATENTS**

This Amendment accompanies a 1.137(b) Petition. In response to the outstanding Office Action, Applicants request entry of the following amendment and reconsideration of the application in light of the amendment and the appended remarks.

In the Claims

Please cancel Claim 3 without prejudice, waiver or disclaimer.

Please enter new Claims 4-8, as follows: